

Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.

September 2020



Advocating for ecological landscape practices
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

From the Editor

I have always felt September to be the start of a new year. The shift in the weather gets my creative juices flowing as I ponder what improvements I can make in my garden next year. Attending conferences sparks new ideas, and I am excited to announce this year's ELA fall conferences. You won't want to miss the [2020 Season's End Summit](#) featuring Neil Diboll, a pioneer in the native plant industry. Neil's enthusiasm for his subject is contagious. November brings [Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes](#) featuring speaker Wambui Ippolito, a horticulturist working with members of one of the oldest African American neighborhoods, Mariner's Harbor, to re-engineer an unclaimed urban habitat. September also brings its share of weeds and invasive pests. In this issue, we find creative uses for invasive plants, learn about parasitic dodder plants, develop strategies to deal with insect pests without harming beneficial insects, and find what works and doesn't work when removing invasives from your property. Take a moment to breathe in the cool autumn air, channel your creative energy, and find lots of pest wrangling tips from the pros. *GRH*



Reducing Invasive Plants and Recovering a Healthy Plant Community

by Ellen Snyder

In southeastern New Hampshire, where I work with landowners and communities on land stewardship, managing invasive plants is a constant struggle. As the Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Town of Durham, I'm guiding three restoration projects on town conservation land. It was hard not to be overwhelmed by the pervasiveness of invasive plants on all three properties. To avoid invasive paralysis, I keep my focus on the goal: restoration of a place to a mostly self-sustaining, healthy plant community. The reward is a restored landscape brimming with native plants and native beneficial insects. [Read the article.](#)



Dodder, a Parasitic Vine Weed

by Bruce Wenning

Not all plant diseases are caused by parasitic microbes, some are caused by parasitic weeds. The dodder vine is one of those weeds. Dodder attaches itself to healthy plants and makes them more vulnerable to other diseases and insect pests. Find out all about the dodder life cycle and best practices for ridding your landscape of this fascinating but noxious vine. [Read the article.](#)



How to Identify and Respond to Pests at Home by Emily May

One of the most fulfilling aspects of spending most of my time at home over the past few months has been watching the flowers in my yard blossom and buzz with bees, flies, butterflies, hummingbirds, and more. I also notice when things go awry, like when I spotted deformed flower heads on my bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*) and later on my purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*). What was going on and what could I do about it without the use of harmful pesticides which pose risk to both humans and insects alike. [Read the article.](#)



Carpenter Bees at Work in Home and Garden by Karen Bussolini

Bees are smart. They recognize high-quality food. The buzz has gone out that my house is a happening place for carpenter bees. In a quest to rid my house of carpenter bees, understand their life cycle, and find alternatives that don't involve them eating my house, I discovered some simple steps to save both my house and these gentle beneficial insects. [Read the article.](#)



Alexandra Botanic Gardens of Wellesley College: Sheet Mulching Update by Tricia Diggins

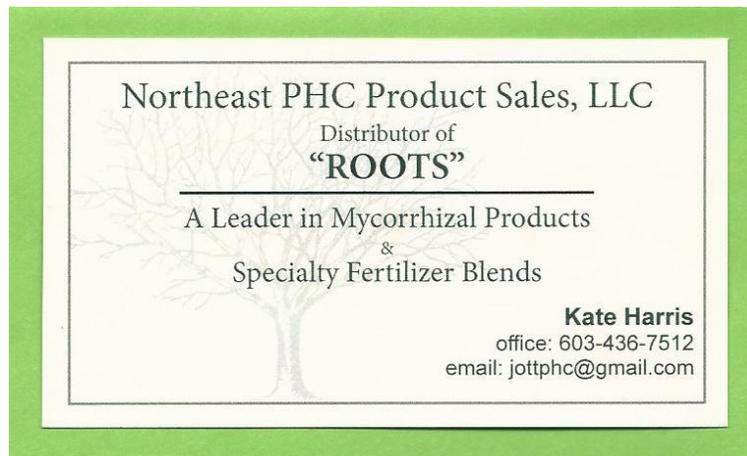
Ten years ago, I wrote an article about sheet mulching that highlighted a project in the Alexandra Botanic Gardens of Wellesley College. It was so interesting to revisit the project ten years later and to see if the sheet mulching solution stood the test of time and kept the turfgrass at bay. One of the unexpected benefits of smothering the turfgrass was that it allowed native plants to naturally form a thriving plant community. [Read the article.](#)



From the Archives Creative Uses for Invasive Plants

In thinking about how to deal with invasives, we look back to an article featured in the July 2012 newsletter. While it might be disheartening to know that we are still dealing with so many of the same issues, it's great to read about clever and creative ways to reuse invasives while we build, create, and eat our way to a more biologically diverse environment. [Read the article.](#)

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ELA News

All Fall Events Boast Early Discounts

Our fall conferences will be conducted entirely online this year, utilizing tools that allow interactive collaboration and offer participants an engaging and inspiring experience.

Season's End Summit - October 28

We look back at a season that has truly been like no other. Join us at this year's **Season's End Summit** for refreshing perspectives and inspiring discussions of tools and techniques that help us build healthy and healing landscape, featuring **Neil Diboll**.

Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes - November 12

At this all-day event, we consider future landscapes and the importance of regenerative solutions to meet climate change challenges. Featuring author **Emma Marris**, we look at the evolution of landscapes managed by humans and what the future portends.

Ecological Plant Conference - December 4

Spend a day reconnecting with familiar plants, learning new plant options, exploring garden insects, and reconsider how humans and plants interrelate. This year's five experts delve into plants for small urban spaces, plants that feed us, plants that thrive in shade, and carefree plants that rein in maintenance.



Member Engagement

In August, ELA's Membership Committee, a subset of the Board of Trustees, began a quarterly outreach initiative. In the first email, members were asked to share a photograph of a cherished landscape. We offer a few of those submissions here as our hearts go out to those in the ELA community who have lost a favorite landscape to fire or destructive weather this season.



Mansfield, Ohio



Port Matilda, Pennsylvania



Monkton, Vermont



Share Your Program Ideas on September 16

We're always anxious to hear from our community. If you have an idea for a program, heard a terrific speaker, or learned about a great resource, then call in to Virtual Volunteer Coffee to share. We'll meet between 12:30 and 1:00 on September 16. Call for 5 minutes or stay for 30. Email Maureen@ecolandscaping.org for the call-in number. Hope to talk to you then.



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Gleanings

Quest to Identify Invasive Pest Before They Invade

North American forests are full of nonnative insects-more than 450 species by [the latest available count](#). Most have done no obvious damage, but a few have, such as the emerald ash borer, which is killing off its namesake trees. Scientists now think they have a model that can predict which nonnative insects will attack which trees. Read more in [Scientific American](#).



What Makes Non-Natives Plants Invasive?

A new study from the University of Vermont found that non-native plants with traits similar but slightly different from the native community (like height) can be highly predictive of whether plants become invasive or not. Read more at [Phys Org](#).



Black Farmer Nourishes Community

Providence native Quatia "Q" Osorio heard a USDA talk in 2017 and discovered there were only nine black farmers in Rhode Island. She set about learning how to farm and created Quantity Farm to serve and nourish her community. No white savior needed. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).



Plants Are Cool in School

Attention all educators! Did you know indoor plants have a positive effect on students and educators alike? Plants can be an important component of creating a healthy classroom environment. Read more at [National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture](#).



Guide to Northeast Pollinator Garden

Complete guide to creating a pollinator garden in the Northeast. This guide is focused on providing rich resources for the specialist bees of the northeastern US, New York in particular, and is inspired by Jarrod Fowler's 2016 publication, Specialist bees of the northeast: host plants and habitat conservation. Read more at [Cornell.edu](https://cornell.edu).



Creating Pollinator Habitats on Iowa Farms

Many insect populations are in serious decline with habitat loss and degradation, as well as pesticide use and climate change, driving the loss of insects. The Xerces society is working with farmers across Iowa to create a network of on-farm demonstration sites that showcase a wide variety of pollinator habitat options and installation methods. Helping to bring insect populations back to healthy numbers. Read more at [Xerces Society](https://xerces.org).



How Can You Mitigate Climate Change

Climate change is accelerating, but if every homeowner makes small changes, it can accumulate to have a big impact. I used many of these ideas on my own landscape, both to inspire and to demonstrate what an individual homeowner can accomplish. Read more at [Goldenrod Garden](https://goldenrodgarden.com).



The Value of Nature

Beyond nature's intrinsic value, it also provides many benefits to people. Check out "Value of Nature" fact sheets that focus on the ecosystem services provided by five different ecosystems and utilizing information from over 100 technical papers: Read more at [Mass Audubon](https://massaudubon.org).



Fun YouTube Nature Walk

Join Russ Cohen for this four-part Housatonic River Walk; enjoy and learn all the edible wild plants that are growing along the river. Enjoy the tours:

[Housatonic River Walk with Russ Cohen Part 1](#)

[Housatonic River Walk with Russ Cohen Part 2](#)

[Housatonic River Walk with Russ Cohen Part 3](#)

[Housatonic River Walk with Russ Cohen Part 4](#)



The Mighty Oak Takes Its Time

Everything you ever wanted to know about oak acorns but were afraid to ask. Read more at [Arnold Arboretum News](https://arnoldarboretum.org).



Share the Bounty!

Growing your own food gained renewed interest this year as the pandemic swept through production pipelines and threatened our food supply. People are relearning how to plant and harvest their own food thus benefiting not only themselves but creating a more resilient community in the process. Read more in [Sierra](https://sierra.org).



Guide to Invasive Pest

This comprehensive guide to invasive pests helps identify pests and where they are occurring and includes pictures of insects and maps of locations of outbreaks. Read more at [Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Blog](https://mass.gov).



Fact Sheet on Eastern Equine Encephalitis

EEE is a very rare disease and only a few cases have been reported in the US, but being outside in the landscape garden does put landscape professionals and gardeners at a higher risk than other populations. Learn more at [CDC](https://cdc.gov).



Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.
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Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

September

- September 16 - [Covid-19's Effect on Public Gardens and Arboreta](#); 4:00 pm ET.
September 16 - [Water Use Regulations, Water Monitoring Tools, and Efficient Irrigation](#); 6:00-7:30 pm ET.
September 16 - [Durable Ground Covers that Give Lawn Mowers Rest](#); 6:30pm ET.
September 16-18 [Plan It Native](#) (online conference); 1:00-5:00 pm CDT.
September 19 & 26 - [Designing a Kitchen Garden](#); 9:30am-12:30pm ET.
September 22 & 29 - [Spaces that Connect Children to Nature](#) (online); 9:00 am-4:00 pm ET.
September 23 **ELA Webinar**→[Why Rain Gardens Fail and Tools for Success](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
September 23 - [Native Bees: Our Pollination Powerhouses](#); 7:00-8:30pm ET.
September 23 - [Plant Foundation Gardens that Say 'Welcome Home' to Native Plants](#); 5:30-6:30 ET.
September 23 - [As Long as Grass Grows](#); 6:30pm ET.
September 23-26 - [APLD International Landscape Design Conference](#) (online); times vary
September 24 - [Preventing Pandemics: Why Biodiversity Matters](#); 7:00pm ET.
September 25 - [How We Decide to Get Serious about Climate Solutions: Politics, Communication, and Framing](#); 10am-1:00pm ET.
September 28 **ELA Webinar**→[Field Notes - A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
September 29, 30 & Oct 1 - [Cross Sectoral Roles at the Summit](#) 10:30 am -6:00 pm ET.
September 30, October 7&14 - [An Ecological Approach to Wildlife Stewardship](#); 6:00-7:00pm ET.

October

- October 7 **ELA Webinar**→[Webinar: Designing with Ferns - The Dependable and the Divisive](#) 12:00-1:00pm ET
October 7 - [2020 Connecticut Invasive Plant Symposium](#); 9:00am-3:30pm ET.
October 14 - [Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants](#); 7:00-8:30pm.
October 17 **ELA Class**→[Propagation - Native Seeds](#); 10:00am-2:00pm ET.
October 21 **ELA Webinar**→[Meadows - If You Build It They Will Come](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
October 27 **ELA Class**→[Native Species, Cultivars, and Selections: What's the Difference?](#) 10:00am-12:00pm ET.
October 28 **ELA Virtual Conference**→[Season's End Summit](#); 9:30am-4:30pm ET.

November

- November 4 **ELA Webinar**→[Challenges and Complexities of Ecological Gardens - A 5-year Journey](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.
November 6 **ELA Class**→[Climate Change and Native Plants](#); 10:30am-12:30pm ET.
November 16 **ELA Webinar**→[Deer-Resistant Native Groundcovers](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.
November 18 **ELA Webinar**→[Evaluating Soil Health](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.
November 21 **ELA Virtual Conference**→[Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes](#) 8:30 am-5:00 pm ET.

Anytime

[URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series](#)

Submit events by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



Lincoln/Sudbury, Massachusetts

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net. *Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor*

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